



**A BLUEPRINT  
FOR MAKING  
DISCIPLES**

***MADE FOR  
MORE!***

# INTRODUCTION

How would you react if someone came back from the dead to give you a special assignment? How intensely would you listen and how seriously would you take their message? Jesus rose from the dead and spent forty days with his followers before gathering them together to give them one final statement before ascending to the Father. Jesus declared, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples”* (Matthew 28:19). Go and make disciples! Coupled with the great commandment to love God and love others (Matthew 22:37-39), these are the basic instructions of the Christian life.

## **LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. HELP OTHERS TO KNOW & LOVE GOD.**

This is the operating system of the church and without it humming along in the background, nothing else matters. The worship gatherings, ministry programs, church buildings and community groups all fall short if we aren't making disciples. So let me ask you a question, “Are you making disciples?” If the answer is no, you are living in disobedience to the final words of Christ. Period. I know that sounds harsh, but it underscores the importance of taking the commands of Christ seriously and walking in obedience.

It's time to reverse our tragic neglect of discipleship and this simple guide is a first step in that direction. It's simple, practical, biblical and hopefully easy to understand. Granted, it's not a perfect blueprint and it might not answer every question, but it is a great first step toward disciple making. I look forward to seeing how God blesses your obedience. Grace and peace!

# THE PROCESS: FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

Most Christians understand the importance of making disciples but few have a clear process in mind. If you were to ask the average Christian how to make disciples you would get more than a few ambiguous answers, jumbled thoughts and blank stares. It's sad but true. Without a clear blueprint, people often do nothing. Therefore, it's important to cut through the fog, confusion and stacks of curriculum options by settling in on a clear process. Here are the top five things to know as we begin.

- 1 THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE.** We want to arrive at a model of discipleship that is easily reproducible. By simply going through the discipleship process, individuals ought to receive the modeling necessary to make disciples of others.
- 2 THE CURRICULUM IS THE BIBLE.** Our desire is to link discipleship directly to the only book in the universe that's inspired by God. In this way, the curriculum never runs out and never runs dry.
- 3 THE TEACHER IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.** This process is led by the Holy Spirit and not trained professionals. The focus is on helping others hear from God and your responsibility is to help others learn to recognize His voice.
- 4 THE PRIORITY IS OBEDIENCE.** We aren't interested in Bible trivia and simply learning facts about God. We want to know God intimately and learn to hear his voice. This process focuses discipleship on application and obedience.
- 5 THE RESULT IS MULTIPLICATION.** It is not enough to simply see individuals growing in their love for God and love for others. Instead, they must step out in obedience and disciple others as well.

# WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?

A discipleship group (D-Group) is a group of two to four people of the same gender that commit to reading and obeying the Bible, answering accountability questions, and praying for the lost. Discipleship groups meet weekly for 60-90 minutes and the only items necessary for group members are a Bible (we recommend the ESV or NIV Study Bible), a Life Journal and a Bookmark. All items are available at the Welcome Center.

## HOW DO I CHOOSE DISCIPLES?

The basic process for choosing disciples is to pray, make a list, and then invite those that God confirms.

**PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION.** Before Jesus chose the twelve men that would become His disciples, he went up on a mountainside and prayed (*Luke 6:12*). In the same way, begin the process of selecting disciples by praying, "God send me people who have a desire to learn and grow".

**MAKE A LIST.** Think about the people God has already placed in your life and don't overlook anyone. Perhaps God has connected you with a friend, co-worker, neighbor or even someone that attends your church. Pray that God would guide you to the right people and make a list as you continue to pray. Finally, prioritize the list and start inviting.

**INVITE THEM TO JOIN THE GROUP.** The ask is simple. "I'm starting a discipleship group and I want to invite you to join me. Would you have time this week to get together so I can walk you through the process and answer any questions you might have?" Meet with the individual, walk through the process, direct them to the resources (Bible, Life Journal, Bookmark) and start meeting every week.

# HOW MANY SHOULD ATTEND?

The ideal size for a discipleship group is four people. Jesus had three others in his D-Group (Peter, James and John) for a reason. He understood that deeper levels of growth and accountability happen best in a smaller setting. Perhaps, the group begins with two or three and then grows to four but try not to exceed four people. This will provide better interaction and consistency for group meetings. Only grow to five if your plan is to quickly multiply.

# WHAT DO YOU DO IN A D-GROUP?

## **BIBLE READING**

*(30-45 MINUTES)*

The core curriculum of a discipleship group is the Bible and it is vitally important that disciples have a steady intake of God's Word. Prior to each group meeting, members are expected to engage God's Word every day by following the Bible reading plan found in their Life Journal. All disciples should follow the same Bible reading plan and focus their efforts primarily on the New Testament passage. Every day, disciples read the passage and reflect on the chapter by using the SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) method. A full explanation of this method is included in the Life Journal.

During the discipleship group, the leader facilitates the Bible Reading section of the bookmark as individuals share how the Holy Spirit spoke to them during the week.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

*(20-30 MINUTES)*

If disciples are regularly breathing in the Word of God, they should also exhale through the confession of sin. Disciples are to look over the ten accountability questions provided on the bookmark and reflect daily by confessing their sins to God, sharing victories and thanking Him for his grace. It is encouraged that disciples make a small note in their Life Journal when God convicts them of a sin or encourages them toward holiness.

During the discipleship group, the leader facilitates the Accountability section of the bookmark and the leader asks group members to share how the Holy Spirit has convicted them throughout the week and any areas they need to confess in order to find healing.

## **PRAYER FOR THE LOST**

*(10-15 MINUTES)*

While Bible reading, journaling, obedience, confession and accountability are important, it is the final activity of discipleship groups that will keep the focus on multiplication. The final questions on the bookmark challenge disciples to build relationships with the lost and pray for them.

The leader closes the group by facilitating the Prayer for Lost section of the bookmark by asking individuals who they have met with during the week and how to pray for them and others. The group closes with prayer.

# WHAT ARE THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE?

**BIBLE READING.** The growing disciple is reading the Bible daily, listening to the Holy Spirit, journaling and living in obedience to God and His Word.

**ACCOUNTABILITY.** The growing disciple is pursuing holiness by being open, transparent with the group and confessing their sins to others. They are committed to obedience and increasing in their love for God and others.

**PRAYER FOR THE LOST.** The growing disciple is intentionally praying for and loving others and they are pursuing intentional relationships with the lost.

## WHEN SHOULD MY GROUP MULTIPLY?

It is suggested that discipleship groups meet for 12-18 months and no longer than two years. The goal is to make disciples who make disciples and after twelve months of meeting, discipleship group leaders should be encouraging their disciples to begin seeking out others to disciple. It is also possible during the multiplication process that some people will meet in the original group and also branch out to meet with others in a second group meeting.

Furthermore, it is strongly encouraged that individuals in discipleship groups meet outside of the weekly gathering and build genuine Christian friendships. The most effective disciple making is developed in relationships.



# FINAL WORDS

The late Dallas Willard once remarked, “the churches of the Western world have not made discipleship a condition of being a Christian... so far as the visible Christian institutions of our day are concerned, discipleship is optional”. This is quite a sad commentary on the North American Church and underscores the disobedience of many followers of Christ. The Great Commission is not optional and to do anything less is to walk in disobedience to the command of Christ.

One of the greatest disciple makers to ever live was John Wesley. He understood that without discipline and structure, most new converts would drift back to their old ways of worldly living. Wesley’s genius, and the reason the Methodist movement survived was his blueprint for discipleship. The societies, classes and bands that he started became the operating system of the greater movement. In this way, new believers understood that they were expected to make disciples who would make disciples of others.

With that being said, our prayer is that this short booklet would serve as a blueprint that allows you to get started on your journey of making disciples who make disciples. Remember, this is the call of Christ who from the beginning reached out to his first disciples and said, “Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people” (Matt. 4:19). Let us, *Love God. Love one another. Help others to know and love God*, by never forgetting the command of Christ to make disciples!

Building the Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Greene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Greene  
Multiplication Pastor

# NOTES

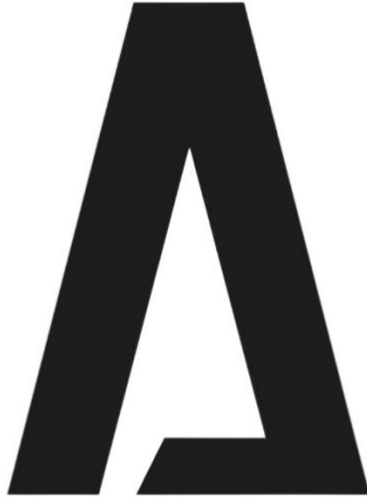
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Accountability questions were taken from Wesley's Band Meeting questions as well as various questions used in the LTG groups at Austin Stone Community Church.



**“THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES.”**  
MATTHEW 28:19